

REMARKS

The application has been amended and is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Previously, applicant responded to the requirement for restriction, by electing Group I, and responded to the further requirement for restriction, by electing Group III, claim 1, drawn to a method of cutting a texture.

Claim 1 was rejected as anticipated by ELSAS 3,722,435.

The Official Action refers to Figures 1-2 of ELSAS. With reference to column 2, beginning with line 26, there is disclosed feed rollers 11 feeding a continuous length of material to a weighing pan 20, and feed rolls 12 withdrawing the material from the weighing pan and moving the material to a cutting station and then feeding determined lengths onto conveying tapes 26 supported by table 22. Cutter 21 is located between rollers 12 and tapes 26.

The present invention is both novel and non-obvious over ELSAS in that the inventive method employs a conveyor belt conveying the texture and runs a synchronizing member between the texture and the conveyor belt synchronized with a horizontal movement of the cutter to allow cutting the texture which is not in contact with the conveyor belt by using the cutter.

Claim 1 has been amended to reflect these features. New claims also recite this invention and read on the elected Group III method of cutting a texture.

Support for these amendments is provided by the original specification, e.g., paragraph [0011], element 77, drawing Figures 4-9. See also the disclosure found in paragraphs [0013], and [0028].

ELSAS does not teach or suggest a method for cutting a texture by running a conveyor belt to convey a texture along the conveyor belt, together with horizontally moving a cutter positioned above the conveyor belt to provide a horizontal movement of the cutter; running a synchronizing member between the texture and the conveyor belt, the running of the synchronizing member being synchronized with the horizontal movement of the cutter; and cutting the texture with the cutter with the texture not in contact with the conveyor belt.

Nor does ELSAS teach or suggest that the synchronizing member is positioned in contact with a bottom surface of the texture and a top surface of the conveyor belt during the cutting of the texture by the cutter, or that a concave portion formed on a top surface of the synchronizing member is in contact with the bottom surface of the texture, and the cutter in contact with the texture is moved downward while the texture is held by the synchronizing member.

Thus, the claims are both novel and non-obvious.

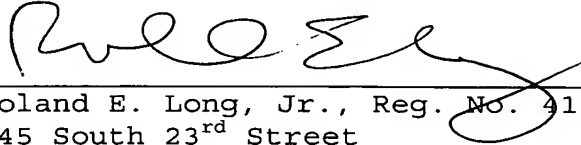
Allowance of all the claims is solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any

overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional
fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON



Roland E. Long, Jr., Reg. No. 41,949
745 South 23rd Street
Arlington, VA 22202
Telephone (703) 521-2297
Telefax (703) 685-0573
(703) 979-4709

REL/lrs